

## TESTIMONY OF CELES KING, III

U.S. SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 1991

SENATOR BIDEN, OTHER DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. I AM CELES KING III OF LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA.

I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM THE CALIFORNIA BRANCH OF THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, FOR WHICH I AM STATE CHAIRMAN; AND FROM THE PROFESSIONAL BAIL AGENTS OF THE U.S., OF WHICH I AM NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

I AM PROUD TO COME BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING TO PLACE AN EXCLAMATION POINT ON THE EVER INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE CLARENCE THOMAS TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

IN THE BAIL BOND BUSINESS LONG AGO, WE BEGAN THE PRACTICE OF SELF-HELP AND REMOVED RACIAL AND GENDER GAPS BASED ON THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF WORK. OF THE 5,000-PLUS LICENSED PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY, WE MUST WORK 60-70 HOURS A WEEK AND WHEN PEOPLE ARE RELEASED FROM CUSTODY, THEY COULD CARE LESS WHO EVER POSTED THE BOND.

I AM ALSO PROUD TO SAY THAT I NOT ONLY SUPPORT JUDGE THOMAS AS AN UNASKED AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND BLACK REPUBLICAN, BUT ALSO AS A PERSON, WHO LIKE MYSELF, EMBODIES THE UNAPOLOGETIC SOUND PRINCIPLES OF HARD WORK AND SELF-HELP.

JUDGE THOMAS' CAREER, IN MY OPINION, IS A GREAT MODEL FOR AMERICAN YOUTH.

I ALSO COME BEFORE YOU NOT ONLY AS A PROPONENT OF THE SELF-HELP PRINCIPLES THAT JUDGE THOMAS EXPOUSES, BUT ALSO AS A PERSON THAT AGREES WITH SOME FORMS OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. MY SUPPORT FOR BOTH IS NOT A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS.

AS YOU KNOW, JUDGE THOMAS' NOMINATION FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE HAS REIGNITED THE WHOLE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DEBATE. AS I SAID, I AGREE WITH JUDGE THOMAS' BELIEF THAT MINORITIES MUST UNDERTAKE SELF-HELP TO IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL BEING.

BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT SOME AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS ARE BENEFICIAL AND ESSENTIAL TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING RACIAL EQUALITY AND ECONOMIC EMPLOYMENT.

IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA, THE CENTURY FREEWAY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM WHICH WORKS BUT SELF-HELP IS NECESSARY.

WHILE THE CENTURY FREEWAY POSSESSES ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS IN THE NATION, IT ALSO HAS A NUMBER OF RESOURCES WHICH, WHEN PROPERLY UTILIZED, CONSTITUTE THE FORMS OF SELF-HELP WHICH JUDGE THOMAS HAS LONG PROMOTED.

I BELIEVE THAT ALL AMERICANS, NOT JUST MINORITIES AND WOMEN, SHOULD HEED JUDGE THOMAS' ADVICE OF HELPING OURSELVES, BUT WE MUST ALSO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTIVE AND EFFECTIVE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS LIKE CFAAAC WHICH ENSURE THAT RACIAL EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS ARE ACHIEVED.

AGAIN, SEN. BIDEN, I WANT TO THANK YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE HISTORIC CONFIRMATION

HEARINGS

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE CANDIDATE OF THE HOUR, JUDGE CLARENCE THOMAS, WILL MAKE AN HONORABLE ADDITION TO THE SUPREME COURT. I WILL BE HONORED AND HAPPY TO ENTERTAIN ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

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